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The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

VOL. X., No. 472.] FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1918. [PRICE 1D.
Registered as a Newspaper.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Health and Morals	14
Our Common Cause	15
The Prevention of Venereal Disease—III.	15
The Mother and the Education Bill	17
Mr. Bennett on War and Sex	18
Correspondence	19
Reports	20

[The N.U.W.S.S. does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles or in correspondence.

All MSS. and letters relating thereto should be addressed to the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, *Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1]*

Notes and News.

"The Common Cause" and Controversial Subjects.

We wish once more to draw the earnest attention of our readers to the fact that the National Union of Women s Suffrage Societies does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles in THE COMMON CAUSE. We think it necessary to emphasise this fact again, because some of the subjects which are most interesting to feminists at the present time, and with which THE COMMON CAUSE necessarily deals, are in their very nature highly controversial, and we gather from some of the letters we have received that the spirit in which we treat them is not always understood. Such questions as National Service, the moral and physical health of the community, the education and maintenance of children, the endowment of motherhood, the wages and conditions of women in the professions and industry—to mention only a few of our subjects—are of vital and burning interest to every feminist. It would be preposterous for an organ of feminism to ignore them. If it did so it would not only be dull, it would very soon be dead! But although feminists are all interested in these subjects, and although they agree in demanding equal rights for women in regard to them, they are not all agreed about anything further. They often disagree as to what equality implies and how it is to be gained, and, of course, they constantly disagree as to other aspects of great social questions. It is the aim of THE COMMON CAUSE to give a full and free expression to the different points of view held by various feminists who have seriously studied the questions which concern and interest all. The carrying out of this aim is severely hampered by the stringent limitation of space, especially since the reduction of the paper supply. It is also hampered by the fact that not everyone has the gift of writing about what he has studied, and that not everyone realises the necessity of studying what he writes about. We publish only contributions which we believe will be interesting to some, at least, of our readers, and which we think suitable for our pages in subject and in expression. We cannot publish nearly all these; but our limitations are always those of suitability or of space. If we published nothing that any of our readers would disagree with, the question of space would soon be solved, as there would be nothing to publish at all! We welcome criticism; but we urge all our readers to scan our pages in the broad and tolerant spirit which should characterise feminists of every school.

The Questioned Candidate.

An interesting point was raised this week when Miss Nina Boyle presented her nomination papers as a Parliamentary Candidate for Keighley. Her nomination was refused by the returning officer, as both nomination papers were irregular. In explaining his refusal, however, the returning officer clearly stated that—had her papers been in order—he would have accepted Miss Boyle's nomination. One returning officer's opinion is of course no guarantee of another's. At the same time, this decision is more than a little interesting in the light of the widespread view that it is illegal for a woman to be elected to Parliament.

The Land-Army Procession.

Two hundred land-workers marched on Saturday from the Food Production Department in Victoria Street to the Y.M.C.A. Headquarters, Tottenham Court Road, where they had lunch. They then proceeded to Hyde Park, and had a meeting. We do not know how far the demonstration succeeded in its object, which was to secure 30,000 recruits for the Land Army; but certainly it was both a charming and inspiring sight. First came an extremely tall and good-looking girl, whose strength suggested Diana, Atalanta, Mary Ambree, and other women of mythology, history, and romance; she carried the Union Jack. Then, looking rather pigmy in comparison, came the band; and after, the mass of girls. The land costume strikes one as very suitable; the green caps of the foresters are, perhaps, a trifle suggestive of musical comedy; but the saws they carried counteracted this frivolous impression. Saws were not the only burdens borne by the land-girls. One had in her arms a duck, another a rabbit, another a lamb. Two waggons, decorated with greenery and daffodils, and drawn by splendid cart-horses, took part in the march, and gave it an added touch of festivity and rusticity. Land-girls in the crowd were selling their excellent paper *The Landswoman*, distributing leaflets, and encouraging possible recruits. We hope that the desired 30,000 will soon have been obtained. The girls certainly looked as though the life suited them, and they are happily conscious of doing work which is of the greatest value to their country, and, we are certain, doing it well.

America's Representatives in London.

A delegation of nineteen American men and women is at present visiting "England in War-Time." Nine of the delegates are representatives of Labour, the remaining ten hold important administrative positions under the American Government. Among these is Mrs. Helen L. Grenfell, Chairman of the State Board of Corrections of Colorado. The headquarters of the delegation are in London, but the delegation is travelling all over the country gleaning an idea of the war activities of English men and women.

Food for Munition-Makers.

A Committee has been this week appointed to advise the Minister of Munitions on problems of the supply and distribution of food to munition-workers. The Committee at present consists of eleven persons, but the Admiralty have still to appoint representatives. There are on the Committee four women—Lady Lawrence, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Churchill, and Miss Mary Macarthur. Although we must still deplore the fact that, where there is a Committee of men and women, women are invariably in the minority, we are glad to see that their inclusion in public committees is steadily becoming more general, and that there is a growing recognition of the value of women's experience on questions of public administration.

"The Common Cause's" Own Fund.

We have not said much lately about THE COMMON CAUSE Fund. We have felt that in these weeks of anxiety and strain it was perhaps hardly possible for many of our readers to think of it. But we do now venture to remind them that if THE COMMON CAUSE is to be useful in discussing those great ideas which are an essential part of the life of our country, it must have all the help they can give it in weathering the difficulties of the present strenuous time.

THE NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

Head Office:—

39, KING STREET, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

Funds nearly **£3,000,000**

Founded **1830**

LIFE ASSURANCE FOR WOMEN.

Recognising the increasing importance of LIFE ASSURANCE FOR WOMEN, this Society has issued a leaflet explaining the methods by which a woman can make provision for her later years, or, in case of early death, for those who may be dependent upon her. A copy of the leaflet and any other information required will be forwarded on application.

THIS SOCIETY BEING A MUTUAL ONE ALL THE PROFITS BELONG TO THE MEMBERS.

(Fill Up, Cut Out, and Forward)

To the Actuary & Manager,
National Mutual Life Assurance Society,
39, King Street, Cheapside, London, E.C. 2.

Please forward me a copy of leaflet "Life Assurance for Women," and quote rates applicable to age.....next birthday.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Sir Douglas Haig writes:—

"The excellent services of the Y.W.C.A. are too well known to need further commendation on my part. But I wish to say how much all of us in the British Forces in France appreciate the invaluable work which the Association has recently undertaken for the comfort of the W.A.A.C."

£185 is still needed to complete the "COMMON CAUSE" Hut

on Salisbury Plain.

Building is going on as fast as war conditions permit. The walls and doors are ready. The W.A.A.C. are most eagerly waiting for its completion, and often parties of the girls walk over to inspect the progress of the Hut.

Y.W.C.A

Please contribute something towards the HEALTH, HAPPINESS, and COMFORT of the W.A.A.C. girls who are working so bravely to help our men at the front

Of the £750 originally asked to provide and equip this Hut, £565 has already been generously subscribed by readers of the "COMMON CAUSE," but £185 is still urgently needed to enable us to complete the work and make the Hut ready for the girls to use.

Donations should be sent to the Editor of the "COMMON CAUSE," Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W.1.

Health and Morals.

Lord Beauchamp has introduced into the House of Lords a Sexual Offences Bill, which is unfortunately very controversial in character. It reproduces some of the clauses of the late Criminal Law Amendment Bill, which divided reformers and finally wrecked the Bill. For example, it proposes to give to courts the power of ordering compulsory medical examination of persons found soliciting, or "loitering or importuning passengers for the purpose of solicitation, *or other offences of a like nature.*" These clauses will not be supported by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene or by the other organisations working with it. It is possible, however, that a short Bill may be brought forward making the actual communication of venereal disease by any man or woman in certain conditions a criminal offence. In order that such a Bill may be generally supported by women's organisations and by religious bodies, it is, of course, essential that the safeguards against injustice should be really adequate. Almost all social workers have met with, or at any rate heard of, cases in which the giving of infection has been so deliberate or the result of such gross negligence as to make one feel that, if any injuries are punished by law at all, these should certainly be among them. Such cases are those in which husbands, knowing that they have the disease, go on compelling their wives to bear one dead child after another; or those in which parents who have been warned by a doctor go on exposing their children by letting them sleep with them; or those in which dissolute persons of either sex, who know themselves to be suffering from the penalty of their lives, deliberately pass it on to the young boys or girls whom they have misled. Such persons are criminals of the worst type, almost as bad as murderers and very much worse than thieves. If anyone is punished at all, they surely ought to be punished. But in seeking to strengthen the law against them it must be remembered that, according to the most recent evidence, they are not the chief instruments of the spread of the disease. Many doctors and social workers bear witness that at the present time the women who communicate venereal disease are too often young girls, who have not yet adopted prostitution as a regular trade, and often are not paid in money for what they do. They are out "to have a good time" and "to give the boys a good time"; they do not always realise the full wrong of what they do, and very often they have not the least idea that they have got the disease. They have themselves been infected by young men, whose responsibility is at least equal to theirs, though in some cases it does not much exceed it. It is quite evident that these girls are not on a level with the criminals referred to above, and should not be treated like them. It is at least very doubtful whether anything which can be looked on as punishment will do any good in such cases, and certainly a law which in its administration presses more severely on them than on the real criminals will do no good, but the harm which always results from injustice.

If therefore a Bill is brought forward to make the communication of venereal disease a penal offence, we strongly urge that it should apply only to those who communicate infection wilfully or by culpable negligence, and that it should make the giving of evidence by the injured person a necessary part of the case against the accused.

If it is to do any real good it must, of course, be accompanied by a more vigorous prosecution of the educational campaign, by further work among our young soldiers and our young girls, and by the increase of facilities for treatment among those who have already been infected with the disease. Such efforts as those which are being made by the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., the Women Patrols, the Women Police, and by many other organisations and by numbers of devoted clergy and doctors, ought to be more actively supported both by individuals who care for the future of their country and by the Government itself. It is on them that our chief hope for the future rests.

Meanwhile 40D must be withdrawn, it is a three-fold danger; in the first place, because it is an injustice; in the second place, because such penal measures as these discourage those who are infected from seeking treatment, and encourage those who are not infected to believe that they can indulge in vice without incurring the penalty thereof; and in the third place, because it inevitably diverts the forces of reform into a destructive campaign, when they ought to be able to concentrate on constructive work. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is one of the many great organisations that is demanding its withdrawal, and we hope soon to be able to announce that the agitation has had its effect.

Our Common Cause.

During the last few weeks of strain most people of any imagination, men or women, have found it difficult to think of any cause but one. Discussion of other causes, social and political, has seemed irrelevant and almost impertinent. Professional interests and ambitions have ceased to matter. Even acute personal anxieties have somehow revealed themselves to their possessors in their proper proportions of insignificance.

Feminists are fortunate in this, that if they see the facts of their case in their true relations, there can be for them no conflict or rivals of claims. Of feminism, more perhaps than of any other cause in the world with the possible exception of democracy, it can be said that its fate stands or falls with the fate of our nation and its Allies.* That is not true of commerce, nor of education, nor of most kinds of social reform. Of all the things which Germany does well, or of which the doing well depends on intelligence or efficiency, it might conceivably be argued that the victory of Germany would ultimately give them an impetus, because of the sharp lesson which it would teach the nation as to the value of the qualities in which our enemies excel. But democracy and feminism are the twin children of liberty. If Germany should win, what lesson would the world deduce as to the value of liberty to the world? Is not the answer plain? One can foresee the kind of reasoning that would find more or less articulate expression at the fireside of a thousand clubs:—"Here is a nation which has never respected liberty, neither that of its own citizens or anyone else; which has kept its proletariat and its women in stricter subordination than any European country except its ally Turkey. Russia? But even in Russia there was a spirit of liberty, and as soon as it got loose and obtained the upper hand, disaster came. We have learned our lesson! Liberty is a beautiful dream; the stuff that poetry is made of. But as a working principle for an imperial race it is as futile and impracticable as the Christianity of the Sermon on the Mount. The nations that rule the world will be the nations that let themselves be ruled by strong men; that know the value of stability, drill, discipline, above all virility; that do not emasculate themselves by admitting women to their councils. We have been rushed into giving women votes. Let that be the last of such mistakes. What do we want of women, except that they shall bear strong sons and plenty of them, to serve their King and country, and for the rest, that they shall know their place, as the German women do."

Of course all this is transparently fallacious. Whatever the issue of the war may be, we should, if we were wise, have learned from it the lesson that we need as a nation more stability, drill, discipline, and virility, and we should realise, too, that there is no inconsistency whatever between these things and the self-respect and self-determination of a free people and of free women. But the many-headed multitude is neither wise nor logical. Nothing impresses it like the outward and visible signs of success, and if Germany were to win, it would probably soon manage to combine a virulent hatred of all Germans with an apotheosis of all the institutions and tendencies that have made Germans what they are and a corresponding depreciation of all the institutions and tendencies that have made Englishmen what they are. We may expect in that event to see a reaction against democracy and feminism which may sweep them into a backwater for a generation or more. Democracy may escape, for a democracy that has learnt the use of arms may be able to make itself respected in the Prussian way. But feminism rests on other sanctions than physical force, and for such other sanctions a Prussianised world will have no use.

It follows that those who desire to work for "a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women" can work for it through any form of national service. When the National Union at the beginning of the war resolved to use its organisation and its funds "to sustain the vital forces of the nation," it was not, as outsiders thought, turning aside even temporarily from its original purpose. It was continuing to work for it in the only possible way, recognising that the nation's cause was indeed 'our common cause.'

During the later stages of the war it may be doubted whether Suffragists who have influence in the women's movement have generally done all that they might have done to stimulate the zeal of women for national service. There have been difficulties and distinctions. When our own special question came to the front in Parliament again, we were absorbed in working for that. As the economic situation has become more complicated it has seemed our obvious duty to safeguard the interests of women, to help to protect them from unscrupulous employers, in the Government service and outside of it, who have not been ashamed to exploit the patriotism of women, by offering them overwork for underpay. But to do this wisely needs delicate and difficult steering. There is a real danger, for feminists as for trade unionists, in applying pre-war methods of agitation and collective bargaining to war-time conditions. What if the soldiers who joined Kitchener's Army early in the war had stopped to insist on trade-union standards of work and pay before flinging their lives and their fortunes into the trenches? What if a man who saw another drowning in the sea stopped to bargain for exactly the right grade of Royal Humane Society medal before jumping in to his rescue? Here, then, is the practical dilemma which confronts women who have influence with other women, or who aim at helping to shape the women's movement. We cannot leave a free field to the exploiter. We have no right to offer, at the expense of other women, unnecessary vicarious sacrifices which may injure not only women themselves but coming generations through them. Yet who is to judge what sacrifices are necessary or unnecessary? How protect women, while at the same time not checking, but stimulating in them to the utmost, the real fighting, "he that saveth his life shall lose it" kind of spirit, which alone will bring forth from them the response that the country needs?

E. F. Rathbone.

* Of course "stands or falls" is not the same thing as "lives or dies." The life or death of any cause or any nation depends, in the long run, on its inherent vitality and not on victory or defeat in any one war. But a defeat may cause it to lie in the dust for generations or even for centuries.

The Prevention of Venereal Disease.—III.*

By C. W. Saleeby, M.D., F.R.S.Edin.

VII.—"Medical Prophylaxis."

I proceed to discuss "medical prophylaxis," or the use of antiseptics at or about the time of infection. I have no thesis to prove, nor argument to which I mean to make my words to conform. My responsibility is less, but sufficient—to submit the facts and attempt to evaluate them for myself and the reader.

Early in the present century, before the discovery of the *spirochaeta pallida*, the late Professor Elie Metchnikoff, of the Pasteur Institute, made observations which showed that the then unidentified virus of syphilis could be killed by the early use of such an antiseptic as calomel—a salt of mercury long known to be anti-syphilitic—in the form of an ointment.

Similarly, salts of another metal, silver in this case, will kill the *gonococcus* under similar conditions. This is the most easily killed of all parasites, and, after transference, lies exposed for two whole days upon the contaminated surface—which may be the eye of a new-born baby—and is during that period vulnerable, as later, having entered the tissues, it will never be again.

These simple, easily demonstrated, indisputable facts are of stupendous importance. They are known, and will never again be unknown. They are part of natural truth, and he is hardy who would call them inherently evil. To-day they are very widely known; to-morrow every young person in the civilised world will be familiar with them. These things being so, what is our duty? This knowledge is our knowledge, and therefore our power, and therefore our responsibility, concerning the most horrible and important of all disease, for the body and for conduct—diseases of the body and of the mind. To shirk the issue is betrayal of the future. We should not leave the decision to the doctors, nor the clergy, nor the politicians, nor to the adolescents, whom we have so little prepared to make it wisely for themselves.

Lest we feel inclined to condemn all conceivable applications of such knowledge, let us note one daily instance thereof, for which we should daily offer thanks. The immediate application of

* The previous articles appeared in The Common Cause on March 29th and April 12th.

suitable silver salts to the eyes of the new-born baby will and does kill the *gonococci* which may have contaminated them when first they were opened to the light. What is hitherto the most common cause of so-called "congenital blindness" is thus removed. From one-third to one-half of all the blind persons now in institutions in this country would now see as well as we do had such salts disinfected their newly-opened conjunctivæ after birth. The midwife who fails in this precaution, which should be applied to the eyes of every baby, whether born in a palace or under a hedge, is and should be liable to lose her licence to practise. We call these diseases "venereal," but, I repeat, we should call them *racial*, the most frequent and severe sufferers being the absolutely innocent next generation. I am not attempting to obtain a particular verdict for a radically different set of cases by instancing this one; but I am assuredly confounding those who would say that this knowledge is inherently immoral and should not be.

Consider now the person who has been exposed to possible contamination. Should we, or should we not, apply our knowledge to such a person as we apply it to the wounded soldier who may have been contaminated with the *tetanus bacillus* and to whom we give the serum which will save him now, and would probably fail to save him if we waited until the appearance of the first symptoms about eleven days later? If the person be innocent, a girl the victim of outrage, a wife whose husband is infected, the answer is evident. If, as in the vast majority of cases, the person is guilty of moral fault, ought we to allow a physical consequence to develop, though we shall certainly do our probably futile best to relieve and cure it at a later date? The unanimous verdict of all who have considered the subject with the serious and devoted humility which it demands is that we should, if possible, apply this very early treatment—that is, treatment before symptoms appear, whenever we can. On this and cognate matters let the reader consult the most admirable recent lecture by Lieutenant-Colonel Harrison, R.A.M.C., in the April number of the *Journal of State Medicine* (published by Baillière, Tindall & Cox), and the literature of the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease (Avenue Chambers, Southampton Row, W.C.). Thus, this latter body provides members of the City of London National Guard with cards to be given to soldiers on leave, telling them to go for immediate, free, secret treatment if they have been exposed to infection, and stating the places and hours at which such treatment can be obtained. Thus, also, in many cases, the Army provides arrangements for such treatment for men who have exposed themselves to infection, and much disease has been and is being thus prevented, as Lieutenant-Colonel Harrison shows. Thus, also, I understand that American soldiers in France are punished if, having exposed themselves to the risk of infection, they do not obtain treatment within six hours of such exposure. On consideration, we shall all agree that it is impossible to demonstrate any moral distinction between the provision of such treatment, early and efficient, and the provision of similar treatment, late and relatively inefficient, to which all are already agreed.

But, clearly, the existence of any treatment involves us in difficulty, which is the greater the more efficient—that is to say, in effect, the earlier—the treatment becomes. Ever since the war broke out I have been continuously engaged in lecturing on this subject to soldiers, following in general the lines of a syllabus laid down by the N.C.C.V.D. and approved by Lord Kitchener. In these lectures one is required to describe the dreadful results of these diseases—clearly deterrent to sexual indulgence, and to insist on the immense efficacy of early treatment—which as clearly negatives the effect of the former deterrence. From this dilemma, which becomes daily more acute, there is no escape whatever—but one; which is to argue against sexual vice not on the grounds of venereal disease, such argument being destitute of any moral quality, except in so far as we insist on the danger of infection to others, wife, child, sweetheart, comrade; and to raise the whole subject to a really moral plane, by considering questions of respect for self and for womanhood. To this we shall come; nay, to this we shall be driven, and perhaps the loss of the lower argument may be great gain. Thus, at any day, a protective vaccine may be discovered which may be used to immunise all infants at birth and which, being discovered, no parent would dare to deny to his child. Venereal disease thenceforth ceasing to exist, as some day it assuredly will, the whole problem of sexual ethics would and will remain. But use noble arguments and you need fear no knowledge, present or to come.

But I have run somewhat ahead of the logical course of this discussion, to which we must return.

Having granted the propriety of providing early treatment, treatment before symptoms, so-called "prophylactic treatment," we now find ourselves very hard pushed indeed. At the present time a majority of the leading members of the N.C.C.V.D., such as Lord Sydenham, Sir Thomas Barlow, and Major Leonard Darwin, whose services against venereal disease have been magnificent and can never be forgotten, decline to go further. Their arguments, weighty from their source and weighty in themselves, are in this wise. Even though the provision of early treatment, so early and effective that the would-have-been patient has nothing to suffer for his fault, be such that, unquestionably, it may make such fault easier to commit by removing a formidable deterrent, yet, especially considering the consequences of the disease to the inpocent, such provision must be made. But, it is going too far to hand such provision, in the form of "prophylactic packets," to soldiers as they go on leave, or to sailors as they step off their ship.

I proceed with this discussion only on the explicit understanding of the reader that I do not know, of my superior wisdom, what is hidden from others. No one is fonder of being dogmatic than I am; but dogmatism here would be insolent. The following considerations may nevertheless be advanced:—

First, our difficulty cannot be solved, as many are attempting to solve it, by appealing to the uncertainty of medical prophylaxis. If it could be shown that these antiseptics fail frequently, that their use increases indulgence, and that thus, on the statistical upshot, they actually spread disease, by promising an illusory protection, as tolerated houses do, then the matter would be settled on the lower issue, as that matter was decades ago, and the moral question would not arise.

But such evidence as is available goes to show that medical prophylaxis *does* prevent; and if it did not prevent to-day, certainly it would next month or next year. If not now, then soon, we have to face the issue; here is a device which prevents venereal disease despite indulgence. Should we use it, or should we not? If, for instance, a medical officer of health, having been applied to, sends a request to the Local Government Board that he shall be supplied with a stock of prophylactic packets for distribution on request, how should he be answered?

Surely there must be one dogma to which all must agree, except those who frankly regard promiscuous sexual indulgence as necessary and healthful for men; and with those I am not arguing here, nor do I regard it as necessary to treat them, here or elsewhere, whoever they be, with anything but contempt. The dogma is that *it must be wrong for those in authority to do anything which can only mean that they both expect and approve of sexual immorality.* If that be granted, it will guide our conduct in some degree. Thus, there may be a profound and valuable moral distinction—I do not say there is, but I think there is—between handing a boy a prophylactic packet, provided by official order, with a wink and a leer, and providing the same packet with official words like those of Lord Kitchener, when the war was young and had not yet degraded us. The reader may say that such a distinction is ridiculous, and that the recipient of the packet would call the advice, in the latter case, hypocritical; and yet I do not think it need be hypocritical, nor so regarded.

But, in truth, I believe that the decision is being taken out of our hands—unless, indeed, we are prepared to try to stop the preparation and sale of such packets. The persons concerned are deciding and will decide for themselves. This new knowledge is theirs as well as ours, and our part in its use, or abuse, can only be advisory. In any case, therefore, we had better be acquainted with the facts—and that is the end to which I have tried to set myself in the foregoing paragraphs, which settle, and attempt to settle, nothing, but may at least be useful if the known facts are clearly and correctly stated.

VIII.—Early Marriage.

It was Metchnikoff also who, in his well-known treatise on *The Nature of Man*, pointed to the "disharmony" which consists in the development of the sexual instinct and appetite too early in life for the best issue of parenthood. Again, this instinct develops far too soon, in many cases, for its owner to be capable of making a wise choice in marriage. Modern knowledge, both of the prevention of conception and of the prevention of venereal disease, helps our adolescents—say, from fifteen to twenty-five—to postpone making a choice so fateful; and every economic tendency favours the delay. Thus the marriage-age steadily and persistently rises in both sexes. This rise is a factor, though only a very small one, as we found on the National Birth-rate Commission, in the fall of the birth-rate. But, though its importance in that respect can easily be overstated, its importance in favouring venereal disease must be serious. In these times marriage is being postponed, in both sexes, to what is an utterly unnatural age, unprecedented in the history of man in any time or place. Such postponement need not necessarily lead to venereal disease; but it means an increased degree of extra-marital sexual indulgence, and that

means venereal disease, even allowing for antiseptic knowledge and its employment. Such indulgence would be much diminished in a country sensible enough to prohibit the use of alcohol as a beverage, and preventive knowledge would then be much more effectively employed in such indulgences as would still, beyond doubt extensively, though much less extensively, occur. Nor do I assert either that marriage is a guarantee against venereal disease; or that the existing marriage laws are such that, were they so to remain, I would dare to encourage young people who know nothing of themselves or the world to marry as light-heartedly as many now do. But the student is bound to assert that, in general, marriage prevents venereal disease, and that the suitable encouragement of marriage at a natural age, by economic means, by the reform of the laws of marriage (of which the divorce law is a part), and otherwise, is a means, ancient, profound, fundamental, of the prevention of venereal disease. To this subject, I earnestly hope, the National Birth-rate Commission will specially direct itself in its "Reconstruction Enquiry," of which the sittings begin next month. Meanwhile, despite the temporary rise in the marriage rate during the war, due to the hope of avoiding military service, and abruptly disappearing with that hope, it is clear that these ancient institutions, marriage and the family, are disappearing before our eyes, not least because of the heavy financial penalties which the State, in its blindness, visits upon them; and so much the worse for our task of preventing venereal disease, and many other evils graver, because deeper, still.

The wisdom of woman is the race's last reserve in this need, and its employment must not be longer delayed. Wordsworth knew—with such a sister and such a wife how could he otherwise?—

> "'Tis not in battles that from youth we train
> The Governor who must be wise and good,
> And temper with the sternness of the brain,
> Thoughts motherly and meek as womanhood.
> Wisdom doth live with children round her knees."

and so did another prophet, Walt Whitman, on the other side of the Atlantic:—

> "Where women walk in public processions in the streets, the same as the men;
> Where they enter the public assembly and take places the same as the men;
> Where the city of the faithfulest friends stands;
> Where the city of the cleanliness of the sexes stands;
> Where the city of the healthiest fathers stands;
> Where the city of the best-bodied mothers stands;
> There the great city stands."

The Mother and the Education Bill.

Never, perhaps, has one been more tempted "to despair of the republic" than when reading some of the uninformed and uncritical eulogies which have greeted Mr. Fisher's Education Bill.

The Bill, indeed, contains nothing very startling. Its main provisions are natural developments of the truly gigantic efforts made during recent years to improve the conditions of child life. The trouble is that no one has had the painful candour to acknowledge that these efforts have failed. In spite of improved curricula, the establishment of numerous varieties of special schools, free meals, medical inspection, school dentists and nurses, all the "following up" work of care committees and after-care committees, the general condition of the nation's children, prior to the war, was nothing bettered. In certain vital respects it was growing steadily worse.

Take for instance the 1914 report of Doctor Hamer, chief school medical officer of the London County Council. As regards certain externals, cleanliness, footgear, and clothing, considerable improvement is recorded, but such things, after all, are but of secondary importance. Space forbids a detailed examination of the whole report, but it can be procured, post free, for 2s. 11d. We can here consider only the table on page 88, giving the comparative state of London children with regard to nutrition during the period 1912-1914. Sir George Newman tells us in his report for 1915 that "the primary physical need of the human body is nutrition. It is the foundation. Without it nothing can be done, and full growth is impossible." He further remarks that "the mal-nourished child tends to become disabled and unemployable, incapable of resisting disease, or withstanding its onset and progress." And Sir George Newman is the chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education. Yet, between 1912 and 1914, the condition as regards nutrition of both boy "entrants" and of boy "leavers" fell by over 9 per cent., that of girls by about 10 per cent., the final result being that in the latter year only a little over one in four of London children faced their adult lives with a body classified as "good."

More of our brave lads have sacrificed their liberty in their recent heroic stand against the German hordes who threatened our freedom.

They will be left to starve unless we come to their aid.

The only way to save them is by sending out parcels of food and comforts, and this can best be done through the channels of a recognised Association.

Will you help to make bearable their existence by sending a donation to the Founder,

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It is unnecessary to emphasise the appalling character of these figures. How long would a farmer escape bankruptcy, three-fourths of whose live-stock was catalogued as "fair" or "poor"?

Readers of The Common Cause are, of course, aware that deficiency of food is only one of the causes of defective nutrition. The truth must be faced. The ultimate reason why all efforts have failed to secure a healthy and happy childhood for the young is the plain, demonstrable fact that in those classes, whence most of our social problems spring, the children's mothers have never had enough to keep them on, and no outside agencies, however devoted, however well-meaning, can make up for the lack of abundant nourishing food and of floor and air space in the home. Hampered by constant maternity and ceaseless domestic duties, the women's earning powers are far too small to produce an adequate sum, and they have no enforceable claims on their husbands, or on anyone else, for a farthing. In considering the financial position of the wives, we must take the range of prices and values prevailing prior to August, 1914. The temporary factors, both favourable and unfavourable to child life, introduced by the war, must necessarily disappear after the cessation of hostilities. Mr. Sydney Webb estimated that in 1912 53 per cent. of adult males in situations earned weekly wages, varying from 13s. to 27s. 6d. a week. The three-quarters of a million of casual labourers were still worse off. Now every man had personal expenses—boots, clothes, beer, tobacco, fares—and for these he usually retained from 3s. to 4s. Many kept more, but we will take the best case, and analyse the financial position of a wife with four children who, prior to the war, received from her husband a weekly 23s. Such a woman considered herself "one of the lucky ones." The estimates given here have never been challenged, save on the ground of being too low.

The first charge on the income is always the husband's food. As a bachelor, in pre-war days, he paid his landlady from 12s. to 15s. a week for board and lodging, and she never felt she made any undue profit out of the bargain. The wife dare not, even if she wished, reduce his standard of comfort, for she is entirely at his pecuniary mercy, and he can always hold over her the threat of going to the public house. The food actually consumed by the man in pre-war days worked out at anything from 5s. to 8s. weekly. The lower level was only reached when he consented to forego all "relishes," such as bacon, cheese, and bloaters. Few women either could or would demand such a sacrifice, but here again we will take the most favourable case.

The women's fixed expenses came out as follows:—

Rent (3 rooms)	6s. 6d.
Gas (2d. a day)	1s. 2d.
Insurance (varied from 8d. to 1s. 4d.) ...	1s. 0d.
Coal (all the year round)	1s. 0d.
Soap, soda, wood, etc.	1s. 0d.
	10s. 8d.

When the woman, therefore, had defrayed these practically compulsory expenses, and had fed her husband, she had left for the food and clothing of herself and four children 7s. 4d., an average sum of 2¼d. per day per head, out of which pittance the school expected her to keep the children well booted and clothed, to provide white pinafores and hair-ribbons for the girls, and subscriptions to game clubs for the boys.

It is almost impossible for middle-class women to realise the grinding poverty in which such women lived their ceaseless anxiety, their endless struggles. In some way or other they had to pick up a few shillings weekly to supplement their incomes, and thus breadwinning was added to their other burdens—breadwinning under the most difficult and precarious circumstances. As a result most married women in towns, by the age of 35 or 40, have contracted distressing disorders, which would permanently incapacitate the rest of us. Sheer necessity, however, keeps them on their feet. Some, indeed, collapse morally as well as physically, lose heart and take to drink. One can only marvel that the number is comparatively so small.

It must be remembered that though a large number of the low-waged men were unmarried, or had only baby children, they were counter-balanced by the large number of better paid men, whose wives were no better off, either because the families were large, or because the husbands handed over to their wives only a small proportion of their wages.

The hearing of the above remarks on certain clauses of the New Education Bill will be shown next week.

Mr. Bennett on War and Sex.

The Pretty Lady. By Arnold Bennett. (Cassell. 6s. net.)

"The French are a gay and frivolous people, fond of dancing and light wines." I know not from what neglected storehouse of universal knowledge I recall this remarkable assertion; but it always stands in my mind as a type of generalisation. All generalisations are wrong: or rather, they are all impossible. Nevertheless, there are different ways of being impossible, and to some impossibilities we can apply the credulity of Tertullian, and believe *because* of the impossibility. When Meredith summed up his view of the relations of the sexes in the celebrated epigram about Cape Turk, his generalisation could not cover all the facts: he himself, with his liberal view, was a fact outside the scope of his generalisation. But the generalisation had the quality of genius: though not true in every detail, it brought illumination to all details. Now Mr. Arnold Bennett's main fault is a tendency to generalise in the wrong way. Sometimes (I remember a conspicuous instance in *Clayhanger*—a saying about strikers) he generalises in the *right* way. Sometimes the illuminating quality of genius is unmistakable in his sweeping sayings. But often it is not. And I think the reason of the failure is this: to generalise rightly, you must be *inside* your subject, and Mr. Bennett is often content to observe his subject from outside. It is a defect of his amazing qualities. His sight is so devastatingly keen, his apprehensions are so alert, his interests so various, that he is naturally betrayed into thinking he knows all about a subject as soon as he has cast one of those keen glances upon it: and his genius is obscured or apparent, his work is unsuccessful or successful, precisely according as this tendency to generalise from the superficies is allowed free play or subdued under the control of a profounder understanding.

Judged by the above test, *The Pretty Lady* is not one of Mr. Bennett's successes. It is brilliant, of course: everything he does is brilliant. But here the brilliance is hard, external: it has none of the glow of the divine fire. The book is full of generalisations—about sex, about nationality, about everything: generalisations explicit and implicit, generalisations fresh, dried and salted, generalisations new and old. We are familiar with the type of novel which says: "Being a woman, she had no sense of honour"; or, "Like all women, she had no sense of humour"; or, "Woman-like, she could not reason, but was guided always by intuition." When one of Mr. Bennett's women says of another woman: "She's as straight as a man," one might be content to consider that as a dramatically appropriate opinion and not as Mr. Bennett's—if only one did not remember an earlier reference made, in Mr. Bennett's own person, to another character's "male gift of ratiocination." Mr. Bennett, too, is fond of the words "masculinity" and "femininity"—yet those words obviously beg the very question they have such a complacent air of answering! But these verbal instances are crude ones: the real fault of the hard, external, superficial generalisation is discernible in the whole construction of the story. Here, emphatically, is *not* the Mr. Bennett of *The Old Wives' Tale*.

The themes are love and war—basic and lasting themes! (I say "love," for though the chief female character is a prostitute, and sells her favours to hundreds of "clients," her feeling for one man in particular is a genuine emotion.) At the end, on the penultimate page, we get a picture of the effect, the impression, of war upon the middle-aged "hero" of the story:—

> "He was in solitude, and surrounded by London. He stood still, and the vast sea of war seemed to be closing over him. The war was growing, or the sense of its measureless scope was growing. It had sprung, not out of this crime or that, but out of the secret invisible roots of humanity, and it was widening to the limits of evolution itself. It transcended judgment. It defied conclusions and rendered equally impossible both hope and despair."

The passage is a fine one: but, coming where it does, it is irrelevant, incongruous. For the fact is that most of the incidents in the book are not vitally affected by the war, or vitally connected with the war, at all. They are, in a sense, caused by the war, no doubt—but they are *externally* caused, if the phrase may be allowed. Their essence is precisely what it would have been in peace. "G. J.," the "hero," middle-aged, rich, self-indulgent, is a good deal busier and more important than in peace-time. Christine, the "cocotte" who loves him, would not have come to London but for the war; yet both their lives are in essentials just what they would have been if there had been no war, and if she had never come to London. Lady Queenie, the smart and aggressive young woman who also loves "G. J.," is killed by shrapnel in an air-raid—but her death is as it were fortuitous, irrelevant to her character: her postures, her pretences, her febrile and neurotic egotism, are up to the very

moment of death precisely in war-time what in peace-time they had indubitably been.

As with war, so with the sex-problem. The generalisations of genius illuminate a problem from within, and so—where a problem is a moral one, as what problem of life can help being?—indicate by implication some solution of the problem: such generalisations are here lacking. Everything is acutely observed and brilliantly described—but from the outside. It is a gain, of course, that such subjects as Mr. Bennett here treats *can* now be treated without a public clamour about their "impropriety": that we have outgrown that era of vicious ignorance which thought it quite "all right" for prostitution to exist—as long as no one mentioned the word "prostitute"! But it remains doubtful if Mr. Bennett has really told us anything new. His details are what is called "intimate": but one would gladly exchange intimacy for intimations. He takes us into Christine's flat, into her bedroom, even into her confidence: but he does not take us into her soul. His psychology is marvellously acute—and yet? More than once the puzzle of particular behavour is met with a generalisation about women of Christine's kind. One is left doubting whether after all women of Christine's kind can really be generalised about any more than women of any other kind. They are individuals. Each has the unique value of a unique and immortal soul. If their kind *is* to be generalised about, ought not the generalisation to indicate some solution of the problem constituted by their kind? Is mere external description adequate to the theme? Sometimes this habit of relentless description (which in its apparent brutality seems sometimes to be the outcome of a sort of *shyness*) leads to just the same errors as are caused by the mid-Victorian mock-modesty of the averted eye. For instance, "G. J." is represented as a man who has never had the slightest hesitation about consorting with prostitutes in the various capitals of Europe: "hundreds" of them are, I think, spoken of as figuring in his past. Now (morality altogether apart) the practical aspect of such a life is the danger of disease. Such a danger for Christine is indeed hinted at, but for "G. J." it is never even remotely suggested. Anybody who, in complete ignorance of social problems, should read Mr. Bennett's book for a realistic description of the relations of the sexes when untouched by moral considerations, would get, not a realistic picture, but a picture of a world as unreal as that presented by Victorian sentimentality—a picture of a world in which men could indulge themselves indefinitely without any physical risk.

In *The Pretty Lady* Mr. Bennett has been content to abjure his true *rôle* of creator, of imaginative interpreter, and to play rather the part of brilliant reporter. His sheer technical efficiency is as remarkable as ever: but it does not suffice to make *The Pretty Lady* one of his great books. He leaves the vast and awe-inspiring problems of war and sex exactly where he found them. Is it merely Philistine to desire some such reading of these problems as shall show at work in the human heart—no matter how ambiguously, tentatively, feebly—a principle transcending the horrors of bloodshed and of the sale of flesh-and-blood? It is certain that Mr. Bennett, like the rest of us, believes in such a principle. He may say it is none of his immediate business to illustrate that principle. Or he may say that he *has* here illustrated it, and the fault of missing it lies with the reader. But I confess that I have missed it.

GERALD GOULD.

REVIEWS IN BRIEF.

MARRIED LOVE. A New Contribution to the Solution of Sex Difficulties. A Book for Married Couples. Dr. Maria Stopes. (A. C. Fifield. 5s. net, pp. 116.)

This little book is probably the first of many others, following up and adding to what is here said. Both in itself, and as (we hope) a pioneer of others, it is of very great value. No book has yet appeared which attempts to throw the dry light of science on the exceedingly human difficulties which are created when two personalities are brought together in the intimate physical and spiritual relationship of marriage. The old assumption that desire is all on the side of the man has led to a complete ignoring of the needs and nature of the woman. Science has much to do to make up this extraordinary *lacuna* in our knowledge. Miss Stopes has made a beginning. We shall look for further enlightenment from her with great expectation.

A. M. R.

Correspondence.

[Letters for publication should be received not later than Monday and should be as brief as possible.]

REGULATION 40D (D.O.R.A.).

MADAM,—As the result of a meeting of the Rescue and Preventive Committee of the National Union of Women Workers, held on April 2nd, a communication was sent to the War Office with regard to the recently issued Regulation 40D under the Defence of the Realm Act, dealing with infected women. The Committee requested that they might be informed as to the Army regulations dealing with soldiers infected with venereal disease, and urged that these might be made public. The following reply has now been received:—

War Office, Whitehall, S.W.
April 6th, 1918.

To Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon,
President, National Union of Women Workers.

Dear Madam,—In reply to your letter of April 3rd, as you are doubtless aware, it is an offence punishable with two years' imprisonment with hard labour for a soldier suffering from venereal disease to conceal it. Therefore, it will only be necessary for any woman who has reason to suppose that she has received venereal infection from a soldier to inform the soldier's Commanding Officer. The man would then be immediately inspected, and if found to be suffering from venereal disease, he would be dealt with by Court-Martial for the offence above named.

When the Defence of the Realm Regulation was proposed, the Army Council gave great consideration to the points raised in your letter and copy resolution, and they came to the conclusion that the existing machinery made it unnecessary to apply the Regulation to soldiers, and I think you will agree that a comparison of the two situations is satisfactory for the following reasons:—

Whereas, in the case of the infected woman, she is only liable to a fine of £100 or six months' imprisonment and it is necessary for the soldier concerned to give evidence in open court against the woman—on the other hand, if the woman has been infected, it will only be necessary for her to communicate with the soldier's Commanding Officer, either personally or anonymously, to secure the immediate medical inspection of the suspected man, who, if found to be suffering from venereal disease, is liable to a penalty of two years' imprisonment with hard labour without the option of a fine. The woman in this case will be spared the possible embarrassment of appearing in a court of law and giving evidence, because the charge before the Court-Martial would not be one of infecting a woman with venereal disease, but concealing venereal disease. As a matter of fact, of course, the

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Patterns post free. Official Hat in good quality Navy Felt, post free, 6/11. Box, 1/- extra.

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In Dark Grey Cloth, for Winter Wear, 28/6
In Dark Grey Cheviot Frieze, 42/-, 45/6, and 55/6.
In fine Summer Weight Serge, 37/6.
Official Hat in best quality Black Felt, post free, 7/11. Box 1/- extra.

WATER BOTTLES (Rubber). English Manufacture. Each Bottle Guaranteed.
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10x6 in.	3/9	14x8 in.	6/-
12x6 ,,	4/3	12x10 ,,	6/3
10x8 ,,	5/3	14x10 ,,	6/9
12x8 ,,	5/9	16x10 ,,	7/6

HOT WATER BOTTLE COVERS.

In "Pyrenees"		Soft Wool	
12x6 in.	1/3	14x8 in.	1/6
10x8 ,,	1/4	12x10 ,,	1/9
12x8 ,,	1/4½	14x10 ,,	1/10

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discovery of the offence for which the soldier would be tried would arise out of the fact that he had conveyed venereal disease to a woman.

(Signed) R. W. Brade.

I shall be much obliged if you can find space for the insertion of this letter in your columns.

Norah E. Green,
Secretary, National Union of Women Workers.

THE ETHICS OF PROPHYLAXIS.

Madam,—Dr. Saleeby's article on March 29th should be read with the searching examination it deserves.

The question of "Prophylaxis" needs the greatest attention and calls for discussion from every point of view, for therein lies the secret of much evil. Dr. Saleeby advocates a continuation, on a larger scale, of a method of treatment in disease which has long since proved itself a failure.

To a really scientific mind salvarsan is as much a quack remedy as sarsaparilla, and has the disadvantage of being a less wholesome and natural remedy. On moral grounds there is nothing to be said but that it offers a premium on immorality.

Miss Abadam timely suggests in The Common Cause, April 12th, that prostitution should be made unprofitable. I would suggest that the use of prophylactics should be made unprofitable. By accomplishing those two aims we should indirectly strike a blow to what is, probably, the most pernicious evil in our midst—Vivisection—the continuance of which, with other evils, is only possible while the mass of mankind remains ignorant of the misery they entail.

I would appeal specially to our medical women, for much will be required of them in the future. Their position is established, thanks to the brave and unwearying efforts of our pioneers, and they will not have the same difficulties to battle with in breaking down old barriers. It is in their power to remove barriers which are a stain on the honour of their protession, and which render any step towards reform in the treatment of disease inadequate. We do not want monuments to disease and iniquity. We do want our hospitals, our endowed beds, and our humane and enlightened men and women doctors, who should bring comfort and aid which can be called truly scientific and spiritual—which is rightly one—and all that helps to make the sum of tenderness and mercy for suffering humanity.

Dorothy Bracewell.

MARRIED WOMEN AND INCOME TAX.

Madam,—May I remind your readers that wives who intend to make separate claims for 1918-19 must lodge this preliminary application by May 5th, or the right to claim for this year will lapse. Claimants will obtain Form 11.S. from their local surveyor of taxes and should return it to him when filled in, taking care to get a receipt for it. Any applicant who has difficulty in obtaining the form should write to me—I shall be glad to give help.

E. Ayres Purdie,
5, 6, & 7, Hampden House, Kingsway, W.C. 1.

PINK FORMS.

Madam,—To the explanation offered by "Headquarters" under the heading of "Pink Forms" in your last issue, I would add the following points:—

(*a*) Not only the women who have filled in 2(a) are entitled to fill in 4(a) (Local Government Franchise), but also *women of twenty-one years* and not yet of thirty years, if they themselves have the necessary qualifications.

(*b*) Concerning the filling in of 2(a), *any part of a house if occupied separately* is a "dwelling-house" under the Act.

(*c*) With regard to business premises, occupation is as necessary as in the case of a dwelling-house. (This is not implied in paragraph 5, although probably sufficiently implied elsewhere in the explanation.)

Annie Leigh Browne.

[*(a) Our correspondent's first criticism of the Pink Form explanation is fully justified, not only the women who have filled in (2a) must fill in (4a) and claim the L. G. vote, but also every woman over twenty-one who has the necessary qualifications.*

(b) The distinction between "any part of a house occupied separately" and "lodgings" under the new Act is not yet clear. We therefore did not emphasise this point in our explanation.

(c) The term "occupation" is purposely avoided throughout the explanation as it is the main source of confusion in the Pink Form. To qualify for business premises a woman must certainly be making use of these herself.—Ed. C.C.]

"THE COMMON CAUSE" £2,000 FUND.

This fund, which is to develop and improve the paper, is in great need of support. Many kind friends have already subscribed. Who will help?

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	341	7	8
Miss Fulford	5	0	0
Miss B. L. Hutchins...	2	12	0
	£348	19	8

THIRD "COMMON CAUSE" HUT.

This hut is for the W.A.A.C. on Salisbury Plain. We ask for £100 more to complete it. The following donations are gratefully acknowledged:—

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	548	7	10
Miss A. E. Lloyd		5	0
Mrs. A. Sanderson		10	0
Miss M. E. Lowndes	5	0	0
E. W. M. and M. R. T.		2	6
Miss A. Hall		5	0
Miss F. Rathbone	5	0	0
Mrs. Manley Smith	1	0	0
Miss E. C. Wilson		5	0
	£360	15	4

Reports.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss Margaret Jones.
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Headquarters.

A letter of welcome was sent from Headquarters to the women members of the American Mission to England, and on the 22nd Mrs. Alys Russell, representing the Executive, and Miss Ferguson, representing The Common Cause, called on them at the Grosvenor Hotel. They were kindly received by Mrs. Helen L. Grenfell, Chairman of the State Board of Corrections of Colorado, and, after an interesting talk with her, were introduced to Mrs. Sarah Bird Spraggon, Superintendent of Women's Employment Division, State of Missouri and State Vice-President of the Women's Division, Council of National Defence; also to Miss Agnes Nestor, first Vice-President International Glove Workers' Union of America and President of the Women's Trade Union League of Chicago. The Common Cause hopes to publish an article concerning this interview next week.

We still have some of the artistic and interesting programmes of the Queen's Hall meeting. Many members and friends will like to possess a souvenir of an occasion of so much historic interest, and will be glad to know that it has been decided to sell the remaining copies at a reduced price of 4d. each. The programmes contain a full cabinet size photograph of Mrs. Fawcett and the words of what has now become the Suffrage hymn, William Blake's "Jerusalem." Intending purchasers are asked to make an early application, and Societies are urged to send for a quantity for disposal among their members.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1917 ...	1,591	17	0
Received from April 8th to 20th, 1918:—			
Subscriptions.			
Mrs. Robert Davidson	1	0	0
Affiliation Fees.			
Warrington W.S.S.		5	0
Colchester W.S.S.		5	9
Radcliffe and Whitefield W.S.S.	1	5	0
Cardiff W.S.S.	8	15	0
Donations.			
F. H.		5	0
Fleet W.S.S.	14	2	6
Received for the Scottish Women's Hospitals, Mrs. Robert Davidson...	1	0	0
1917 Franchise Fund.			
Cambridge W.S.S.		18	0
	£1,619	13	3

Celebration Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	1,486	16	6
Miss Hilda Jones	1	1	0
Miss M. A. Taylor		5	0
Cheadle W.S.S.	1	5	6
Scarborough W.S.S.	1	1	0
Miss E. Blanche Gordon... ...	2	0	0
Miss F. Rathbone	2	2	0
Miss A. W. Cooke	1	0	0
Miss M. C. Gittins, "In Memoriam, E. G."	1	0	0
Plymouth W.S.S.	1	6	6
Mrs. Napier	10	0	0
Miss Maud Gibson...	2	0	0
The Hon. Mrs John Bailey ...	2	0	0
Mrs. Squire Sprigge	1	0	0
	£1,512	17	6

QUERIES AND ANSWERS ABOUT WOMEN VOTERS AND THE PARLIAMENTARY REGISTER.

Question: Wives of soldiers and sailors. Is a wife, residing with her mother while her husband is fighting, entitled to registration?

Answer: *If, on account of service in the Army, Navy, or Air Force, a man has given up the house which he would otherwise have occupied in a certain constituency, then both he and his wife can claim to be registered in respect of that constituency in which, but for the war, he would now be living. Either the husband or the wife should write to the Local Registration Officer for the constituency in which they lived, claiming registration for both of them.*

LONDON UNITS, SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL,

Letters have been received from Dr. Benson's "Hospital Chirurgien de Campagne," the Elsie Inglis Unit. The camp has been pitched somewhere in Macedonia, on high ground above a winding stream, bordered with planes and oaks. High rocks give shelter, and the tents stand amongst spring flowers, anemones, violets and grape hyacinths. Work was going busily forward when Dr. Benson wrote. Already the stores' tent was arranged, the linen tent in order, and the boilers for hot water supply smoking merrily. The commissariat receives her praise. Miss Hedges sends in a car to a neighbouring town every day for the mail and the hospital rations, and the cooks contrive a pleasing variety of fare. Miss Gwynn, the Administrator, and Major Nedok, the Serbian

The "Redcar" The "Doncaster" The "Auteuil"

Inexpensive COATS for the Spring

The "REDCAR." Durable Rain Coat in various shades of Drab Twill, lined throughout with check material, smart belt and pockets; 50 ins. and 52 ins. long. **£3. 3. 0.**

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The condition of the Armenian refugees in Persia, Syria, and Russia is pitiable in the extreme, and funds are urgently needed for their relief. Although we are temporarily unable to transmit monies to the last-mentioned district, it is impossible to over-estimate the importance of accumulating funds to send immediately the way opens. A recent message tells us that

> "Winter is severe and mortality great and growing. There is no time to lose—thousands of children may be saved."

We fully realise the constant calls on the benevolence of all, in these distressful times, but the need is pressing, and help must be sent at once, or it may be too late.

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They should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, E. Wright Brooks, Esq., "Friends of Armenia," 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed "London, County and Westminster Bank," and Treasury Notes registered.

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Director of the Hospital, are very occupied, and there is an idea of building mud huts in place of some of the tents. Royaumont is still working at high pressure. British cases are now being brought in from the fighting line. Contributions for the London Ward at Royaumont mean instant and actual help to the men wounded in the battle now raging. These, as also monetary support for the Elsie Inglis Unit, may be sent to the Viscountess Cowdray, or to Miss T. Gosse, 66, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Headquarters: 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

Founded by the Scottish Federation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, much new work being undertaken, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or to Miss Gosse, Joint Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to April 4th, 1918	305,990	7	4
Further donations received to April 11th, 1918:—			
*Per Mrs. Abbott, subscriptions from Australia, per the Manager, Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, Ltd., London	2,500	0	0
Mrs. Milne	5	12	0
*East Grinstead W.S.S., per Mrs. G. Reid, Hon. Treas., for upkeep of "East Grinstead" bed, Royaumont	13	8	7
Miss Margaret Macrae	10	0	0
*Per Mrs. Aldridge, Organiser S.W.H.: Messrs. Samuel Osborn & Co. Ltd. (£10), Employees Messrs R. W. Crabbe Ltd. (collection taken at two meetings on March 18th) (£3), Donation as result of Meetings (£2), Employees Messrs. Geo. Mann Ltd. (collection taken at meeting on March 19th) (£1 15s.)	16	15	0
*Sale of Chinese Stamps, per Mrs. Laurie: Miss H. Isabella Low		5	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: *Employees Messrs. Portland Forge Co. Ltd.	1	17	9
*St. Leonard's School, per Miss M. Bentinck Smith, for upkeep of "St. Leonard's" bed, Royaumont	50	0	0
*Leven W.S.S., per Mrs. Reid, Hon. Treas., for upkeep of three "Leven" beds (Salonica and Royaumont): Part proceeds of Flag Day held at Leven, Mettiel, Buckhaven, E. and W. Wemyss, Lundin Links, Kennaway, Windy Gates, Kilconquhar, and Colinsburgh (£60); Part proceeds from sale of Waste-paper (£22 10s.); Lecture by Miss Holmes, less expenses (£13 17s. 8d.); Organ Recital in Forman Church, less expenses (£1 15s. 10d.); Collecting Boxes of Female Employees and Friends (£1 2s. 6d.); Weekly collections of Female Employees at Saltworks, Leven (14s.)	100	0	0
*Mrs. Glen (Serbians)	3	0	0
Miss Ralt	10	0	0
*Per Miss E. Rachel Jamieson, Organiser S.W.H.: *Workmen's Scheme*—*Employees Messrs. McVitie & Price (£14), *Employees Messrs. MacTaggart, Scott & Co., per John Laurie, Esq. (£2 0s. 5d.) ...	16	0	5
Eng. Commander B. D. Macqueen, R.N., per Mrs. D. Scott Murray, per Miss E. W. R. Alison, Hon. Treas., Perth W.S.S.	1	1	0
*Per Miss Geraldine Cooke: Proceeds of Crieff Flag Day, per Miss Pagan, for "Crieff" bed, Royaumont (£60); Proceeds of Oxnam Flag Day, per Miss Margaret Bortiwick (£10 17s. 9d.); 5s. Post Card Sale, per Miss Charlotte Banks (£4 10s. 6d.); Proceeds of Rhymie Flag Day, per Archie I. Alexander, Esq. (£4 2s. 9d.); Proceeds of Arbuthnot School Concert, per Alexander Gray, Esq. (£4); special donation, result of Miss Vera Holme's lecture—Mrs. Murray (£1)	84	11	0
*Girls' Auxiliary, Kames U.F. Church, per Miss Margaret M. Buckingham, Sec.	5	0	0
*Alex Cupples, Esq.	2	0	0
*Per T. MacKenzie, Esq., New Zealand Government Offices, Strand: Southlands War Funds Association (£200), "Secretary, Wellington" (£500)	700	0	0
*Per Miss Isabella Kerr, Local Hon. Sec. S.W.H., Greenock: 21st instal. from Waste-paper and Waste Material Scheme...	100	0	0
*Messrs. J. Munro & Co. ...	5	0	0
*"A Friend," per Miss Foster (Sallanches) ...		5	0
*Anonymous	2	0	0
*Mr. McGow, per Mrs. Stout, Hon. Treas. St. Andrews W.S.S.	5	0	0
*Bristol W.S.S., per Mrs. Hicks, Hon. Treas.: G. Bryar, Esq. (6s.), Mrs. Cross (3s.), Mrs. Taylor (3s.), Mrs. Talbot (3s.), Mrs. H. Hicks (3s.), Miss M. Leonard (3s.)	1	1	0
Students and Staff, Pupil Teachers' Centre, per Miss L. E. Bowler, Principal, per R. A. Berry, Esq....	5	0	0
*Rev. Robert G. Rodger, per Mrs. McIntosh, for "Clarendon Crescent" bed, Royaumont	1	1	0
*Women's War Work Party, per Miss M. T. Andrew, Hon. Pres. and Treas., for "Carriden Parish Memorial" bed, Salonica	10	0	0
*Per Miss May Morton, for "Bingley" bed, Corsica ...	25	0	0
"M. C. C."	5	0	0
"E. B. R." and "M. R." ...	2	0	0
Per Miss Montgomery (Equipment)...	3	2	6
*Miss Constance B. Thresher (quarterly don.)	2	10	0
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*Mrs. Tiffany, of New York (monthly don.)	5	3	6
*From Three of the Maids at Clonhugh, per Miss Isa Walker		17	0
*Per Mrs. Aldridge, Organiser S.W.H.: Clyde Works Relief Fund, Staff and Employees Messrs. Samuel Osborn & Co. Ltd. (£10), Employees Messrs. Hadfield's Ltd., Collection taken at dinner-time meetings addressed by Mrs. Aldridge (£5 0s. 3d.), *Mrs. Kitson (1s.), Four copies of book sold at meeting (1s.) ...	15	2	3
*Collection taken at Annual Meeting of the Purley Society of the N.U.W.S.S., per Mrs. G. Carter, Hon. Treas.... ...	1	3	0
*Per Miss E. Rachel Jamieson, Organiser S.W.H.: *Workmen's Scheme*—*Employees (Munition Dept.) Scottish Motor Traction Co. (£2 17s. 2d.), *Staff of Accountant's Office, G.P.O., Edinburgh, per Mr. A. P. Macmanus, Cashier (£2 7s. 6d.), *Co-operative Women's Guild, St. Cuthbert's, per Mrs. Yeaman, Hon. Treas. (£2 7s.), *Women Clerks, Accountant's Office, G.P.O., Edinburgh, per Miss Sutherland (£2 5s.), Leith Provident Co-op. Women's Guild, per Miss McMahon (£1 7s. 10d.)...	11	4	6
*Per Mrs. Robertson: *Employees Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (87th con.)	2	6	0
*Staff and Pupils, Ware Grammar School for Girls, per Miss M. E. Brough, Headmistress	8	8	0
*Mrs. R. W. Tweedie	1	0	0
*Per Miss Margaret A. Law, further donation from Intercessory Services		5	0
Mrs. J. H. James, "In Memoriam, April 17th"		10	0
*Stand Grammar School, per Miss Beckett, for upkeep of "Stand Grammar School" bed, Royaumont	12	10	0
Collected during Flag Days in Haddington, per Mrs. A. Kerr	8	3	6
*Miss M. Brady, per Miss Alice Paterson, Hon. Treas. Farnham and Dist. W.S.S. (quarterly don. for Serbia)		6	6
Proceeds of Whist Drive, in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, per Mrs. T. Leech	7	15	0
*Sunderland W.S.S., per Mrs. Mundella, Hon. Treas. (March dons.): Collected at 4, Belford Road—Mrs. Common (10s.), Miss J. Common (10s.), Mrs. Eliot Common (10s.), Mrs. Walford Common (5s.), Mrs. Garcia (2s. 6d.), A Friend (1s.), Household Economies, Belford Road (6s.); Per Mrs. Mundella: Mrs. A. Johnson (10s. 6d.), Mrs. Eyres (5s.), Mrs. Lazenby (3s.), Miss M. Panton (2s. 6d.), S. H. C. (2s. 6d.), Miss Hedley (2s.), Mrs. A. Ritson (2s.), Mrs. Mundella (2s.), Mrs. Oliver (1s.), Form VI., Bede Collegiate Girls' School (10s.); Mrs. Dalrymple Smith (6s. 8d.), S. G. (5s.)	4	16	8
Mrs. A. Sanderson		5	0
*Miss J. C. Thomson	1	0	0
*Collected during Flag Day in Auchterarder and Dist., per Miss E. M. Eadie...	10	14	0
*John C. Stein, Esq., for upkeep of two "Colin Stein" beds, Royaumont and American Unit	100	0	0
*Employees Castlecary Brick Works, per John G. Stein, Esq., for upkeep of "Castlecary" bed, Sallanches ...	50	0	0
*Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt, for upkeep of "Armitage Hewitt" bed, Royaumont	25	0	0
*Birkenhead W.S.S., per Miss Mary E. Dalby, Hon. Treas., for upkeep of "Birkenhead" bed, Royaumont	3	18	2
*Per Mrs. Jameson, for "Coates Crescent" bed, Royaumont: Dr. and Mrs. Haig Ferguson (£2), Miss Pirie (15s.)	2	15	0
Lanarkshire District Scottish Branch British Red Cross Society, per Miss Livingstone, to endow two "Lanarkshire, In Memory of Dr. Elsie Inglis" beds, Sallanches ...	100	0	0
Miss Forman...	1	0	0
*Mrs. Stein (Canteen Refugee Work at Creil)	5	5	0
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"Leven" (three beds) (Salonica, 1 year; Royaumont, 2 beds, 6 months each)	Leven W.S.S., per Mrs. Reid, Hon. Treas.
"Crieff" (Royaumont, further 1 year)	Proceeds of Crieff Flag Day, per Miss Pagan, per Miss Geraldine Cooke.

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Reports from Societies.

Mansfield.—On April 15th, Mr. H. M. Theedam addressed the Mansfield Women's Co-operative Guild on "Women and Politics."

Bristol.—At the Annual Meeting on March 25th, the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, received a presentation from the members of the Committee, past and present, as a mark of their warm appreciation of her loyal services to the Society. The gifts consisted of a useful attaché case and a very handsome scarf and collar of old Limerick lace. Mrs. Talbot, in presenting these gifts, remarked that the energy put into the movement in Bristol was largely due to the untiring zeal of Mrs. Cross.

Hitchen, Stevenage and District.—Three Meetings were held by the Society after the Annual Council Meeting, when our two delegates, Mrs. Wathen, Chairman of the Committee, and Miss A. Villiers, addressed members of our Society on the proposed formation of Women Citizens' Associations. Miss Villiers, for many years Hon. Secretary of our Society, addressed the Stevenage members on March 20th, and Mrs. Wathen addressed the Welwyn members on April 3rd at the Knebworth members on April 6th. The attendances were good; the addresses were followed by interesting discussions.

Winchester.—The Society held its General Meeting on April 10th, Lady Laura Ridding was in the Chair. The Hon. Sec. read the Report for 1917, which showed that at the General Meeting in that year, serious work to obtain a Woman Councillor was initiated. A lady willing to serve had been nominated for co-option, at no less than three vacancies which had occurred in the Town Council. This aim had not yet been attained, but each time more votes were gained, and as another vacancy had just occurred, strong hopes of success were entertained. After re-election of officers, etc., the meeting was opened to non-members, and the question of starting a Women Citizens' Association was earnestly advocated by the Chairman. On a resolution being put that such an Association should be promoted by the combined efforts of the three Societies, *i.e.*, the N.U.W.S.S., the N.U.W.W., and the Women's Co-operative Guild (a Union which has already done good work in the City), it was carried unanimously, and a small committee, consisting of members from each of the City Wards, was appointed to arrange plan of work.

GLASGOW CELEBRATION.

The wind had ceased to blow and the sun shone, as a gathering of representatives of Women's Suffrage Organisations met in the Kelvingrove Park on Saturday afternoon, to witness the planting by Miss Louisa Lumsden, LL.D., of a tree, in commemoration of the passing of the Representation of the People Act, 1918. The celebration was held under the auspices of the Glasgow Society for Women's Suffrage, The Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union, The Women's Freedom League, The Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, and the United Suffragists. Miss Francis Melville, B.D., Glasgow, who presided, said they had met to commemorate what was perhaps the most important change made in the British Constitution, also to see a memorial set in the heart of a great city. The enfranchisement of women would bring a new life into the body politic, and therefore it was most appropriate to plant in commemoration a living and a growing thing. In expressing the women's tribute to pioneers, Miss Melville introduced Dr. Louisa Lumsden, referring to her successful pioneer work for the higher education of girls, and for women's suffrage. She felt much personal gratification in being asked to hand over to Dr. Lumsden the labourers' tool, a very business-like workman's spade, symbolic of the hard work still to be undertaken by women, just as their commemoration oak was symbolic of the living and growing schemes of reform all suffragists were resolved, with the help of the vote, to contribute to the life of the nation. Miss Melville then presented the spade to Dr. Lumsden, who vigorously performed the planting ceremony, and after thanking those present for the honour conferred on her, proceeded to give one of her rousing speeches begging all women to give of their best to their nation to-day in its dire need. Dr. Lumsden said she never would have lifted her hand or voice to help the cause of suffrage if she had not been convinced it was for the good of the country. Now, as always, our country should and must be our first consideration. From the long list of suffragists Dr. Lumsden said she would like to name "one heroic soul," Dr. Elsie Inglis. In the past the fight for recognition had been hard and perhaps only women as old as herself could appreciate the great changes in the position of women; this changed and changing attitude was doubtless due not only to the war, and the nation's need of women's work, but to the work of the suffragists in the past. Armed with the vote, the women of Great Britain would fight against all that pollutes national life, all that destroys the fair chance to life of the child, and against all inequalities of circumstance which are a negation of true democracy, and in this fight Dr. Lumsden begged all women to withstand the evils of class-feeling and class-distinction. In conclusion Dr. Lumsden begged women to avoid clinging to party at the cost of principle.

Miss Melville in concluding the proceedings referred to the fact that owing to the permission of the Corporation of the City, they were enabled to plant the tree in this park in the shadow of their University.

Later in the afternoon a well attended meeting was held in the Queen's Rooms, over which Miss Chrystal Macmillan presided. In addition to Miss Louisa Lumsden, LL.D., the speakers representing the Societies taking part were Miss Melville, who spoke on behalf of the Glasgow Society for Women's Suffrage, Miss Francis Simson, from Masson Hall, Edinburgh, who spoke on behalf of the Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union, Miss Bessie Semple, representing the Women's Freedom League, Miss Macfarlane Park, who spoke on behalf of the C.U.W.F.A., and Mrs. Helen Crawford, on behalf of the United Suffragists.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

[*Notices of Meetings for this column should reach the Editor on Monday.*]

APRIL 29.

Bristol—Gloucester Road—Speaker: Mrs. Cross. 7.30 p.m.

Birmingham—Sutton Lecture Hall—Mrs. Ring 3 p.m.

Birmingham—Grand Hotel—Chair: Miss Maude Royden—Mrs. Osler 7.30 p.m.

MAY 1.

Islington—Women's Co-operative Guild (Holloway Branch), 144, Seven Sisters Road, N.—Subject: "The New Votes in Parliamentary and Municipal Affairs"—Speaker: Miss Margaret Jones. 5 p.m.

MAY 2.

Birmingham—Slatley Women's Liberal—Mrs. Ring 3 p.m.

MAY 6.

Hampstead—Mothers' Union, St. Paul's Schools, Winchester Road, N.W.—Subject: "Women's New Responsibilities"—Speaker: Mrs. Croom-Johnson. 3 p.m.

MAY 9.

Lambeth—Brew House, St. Mary's Church, Lambeth Road—Subject: "Parent and Child"—Speaker: Miss Walford. 3 p.m.

Denmark Hill—People's Church, Windsor Road—Fortnightly Citizens' Discussion Circle. 7 p.m.

LONDON UNITS, S.W.H.

MAY 4th.—St. Cyprian's Hall, Brockley Road—Public Meeting—Speaker: Miss May Curwen—Subject: "Scottish Women's Hospitals' Work on the Battle-Fronts" (illustrated by Lantern Slides). 7.30 p.m.

MAY 7th.—Coombe and Malden Picture Palace—Concert and Lantern Lecture—Speaker: Miss May Curwen—Subject: "Scottish Women's Hospitals' Work on the Battle-Fronts." 3 p.m.

MAY 8th.—L.C.C. Training College, Eltham—Speaker: Miss May Curwen—Subject: "The Work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals." 3 p.m.

Coming Events.

APRIL 29th.—Caxton Hall—Public Lecture on "The House of Commons and India," by the Hon. R. D. Denman, M.P.; also on "India's New Status in the British Empire," by Mr. St. Nihal Singh. 7 p.m.

APRIL 29th.—The Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street—National Union of Women Workers—General Meeting on "The Children's Rights in Continued Education, as Embodied in the New Education Bill"—Chair: Lady Emmott—Speaker: Miss P. Fawcett. 5.30 p.m.

APRIL 29th.—Central Hall, Westminster—Protest Meeting against 40 D (D.O.R.A.), which introduces State Regulation of Vice—Speakers: Mr. Lees Smith, M.P., Mr. Lansbury, etc. 7 p.m.

MAY 2nd.—At 11, Tavistock Square, W.C. 1—"Indian Women"—Chair: The Lady Emily Lutzens. 7.30 p.m.

MAY 7th.—Memorial Hall—Conference on "Women and the New Spiritual Impulse"—First session, Miss Swetenham, 3—3.45; Second session, Miss Stevenson, 3.45—5; Evening session, Mrs. Herman, 6; Mrs. Holman, 7—Chair (throughout): Miss A. Maude Royden, who will give the closing address. Admission free. 1s. seats from the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage, 30, Holborn Hall, W.C. 1.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BRITAIN AND INDIA.

PUBLIC LECTURE at the Caxton Hall, Monday, April 29th, at 7 p.m. Speaker: The Hon. R. Douglas Denman, M.P.; Subject: "The House of Commons and India." Speaker: Mr. St. Nihal Singh; Subject: "India's New Status in the British Empire."

MASS PROTEST MEETING AGAINST 40 D.—Women Repudiate Return to C.D. Acts, Central Hall, Westminster, Monday, April 29th, 7 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Lees Smith, M.P., Mr. George Lansbury, Mrs. Despard, Miss Lind-af Hageby, Miss Esther Roper. Tickets for reserved seats, 2s. 6d. and 1s., from Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, or International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke-st., Adelphi, and at doors. Doors open 6.30. Admission free.

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[Continued on page 24

Continued from page 23)

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Printed (and the Trade supplied) by the National Press Agency Ltd., Whitefriars House, Carmelite St., London E.C. 4, for the Proprietors, The Common Cause Publishing Co. Ltd., and Published at Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. *London:* George Vickers. *Manchester:* John Heywood; Abel Heywood & Son; W. H. Smith & Son. *Newcastle-on-Tyne:* W. H. Smith & Son. *Edinburgh and Glasgow:* J. Menzies & Co. *Dublin and Belfast:* Eason & Son.